

REMARKS

Claims 7 through 27 are currently pending in the present application and are presented for consideration upon entry of the instant amendment, which is respectfully requested.

Claims 7 through 27 were objected to on page 2 of the Office Action because of informalities. To address these objections, the claims have been amended by: removing "or sub assembly therefore" and "including" from the preamble, replacing a "blocking piece" with "toothed piece", and replacing a "slide" with "toothed slide".

In addition, claim 18 has been objected to as being unclear. In general, claim 18 explains the removal of the first key and insertion of the second key occurs when the lock cylinder (2) is in a partially rotated condition (the second working position) relative to the lock housing (9). However, Applicant provides the following detailed explanation of the key-changeable lock in order to clarify.

The first key is inserted into the lock and the key acts on the toothed slides (4). The toothed slides (4) in turn act on the toothed pieces (3). The block grooves (15) of all the toothed pieces (3) then align. When the lock cylinder (2) is turned under action of the key, the locking block (1) is then pushed into the lock cylinder (2) by the profile of the lock housing (9). The locking bar (1) then moves into the aligned blocking grooves (15). The locking block (1) is the only part of the lock that prevents or allows the lock cylinder (2) to rotate relative the lock housing in the present invention.

When the locking block (1) moves into the aligned block grooves (15), the locking block (1) engages against and pushes the pins (10). This in turn pushes the sliding block (6) assembly in the same direction (downward in Figures 2 and 3). This causes the release of the toothed slide (4) from the toothed piece (3).

When the first key is then removed in this partially rotated position, the

relationship of the toothed slide (4) to the toothed piece (3) is lost. Inserting a second key with a new profile will create a new relationship of toothed slide (4) to toothed piece (3). Rotation of the lock cylinder (2) back to the position shown in Figure 2 (the first working position) re-engages the toothed slide (4) and the toothed piece (3) to then allow the second key to open and close the lock. Because of the change in relative positions of the toothed slide (4) and the toothed piece (3) the first key will no longer work.

Independent claims 7 and 22, as well as dependent claims 8 through 12, 16 through 21 and 25 through 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,966,021 to Boag (hereinafter "Boag"). In addition, dependent claims 13 through 15, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boag as applied to claim 7 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,119,495 to Loreti (Hereinafter, "Loreti"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons below.

Independent claims 7 and 22 provide for, *inter alia*, a locking block (1) that, as explained above, extends from the lock cylinder (2) to engage the lock housing (9) preventing rotation of the lock cylinder (2) relative to the lock housing (9). In contrast, Boag provides for a pick bar (44) that does not prevent relative rotation of the carrier plug (22) to the cylinder housing (20). Instead, the pick bar is there to prevent manipulation of the tumblers by someone attempting to pick the lock (column 4, lines 5-8 of Boag).

In particular, the Office Action refers to Figure 7 of Boag as providing a pick bar that prevents rotation of the lock cylinder. However, this is incorrect since the pick bar of Boag does not prevent rotation of the carrier plug. According to the assembly in Figure 7, any attempt to rotate the carrier plug would force the retainer bar (40) (by camming on the edges of the slot) and the pick bar (44) back into carrier plug causing the carrier plug to rotate. This occurs because there is nothing in Figure 7 supporting the pick bar, retaining bar and tumblers. Thus, Boag does not disclose or suggest a lock

block (1) that engages the lock housing (9) preventing rotation of the lock cylinder (2) relative to the lock housing (9) as recited in claims 7 and 22.

In addition, independent claim 7 provides for, *inter alia*, a toothed piece that moves to allow or block retraction of the locking block into the locking cylinder. To the contrary, Boag contains a retainer bar (40) that locates the tumblers (col. 3, lines 59-61) and extends from the carrier plug (22) when in the reprogram position to allow resetting of the followers and tumblers (col. 3, lines 64-68 and Figure 7). Consequently, Boag does not disclose or suggest at least one toothed piece to move to selectively allow or block retraction of the locking block into the lock cylinder as recited in claim 7.

Furthermore, independent claim 7 provides for, *inter alia*, a toothed slide to move in the lock cylinder, where the toothed slide has an engaged and disengaged position with a toothed piece. However, in Boag, the tumbler (36) does not have both an engaged and disengaged position with the retainer bar (40); it is always engaged. There is no fixed relationship of the retainer bar to the tumbler in the engaged position and no variable relationship when in the disengaged position. Thus, Boag does not disclose or suggest a toothed slide having an engaged and disengaged position with at least one toothed piece, as recited in claim 7.

Loreti fails to disclose or suggest a lock block (1) that engages the lock housing (9) preventing rotation of the lock cylinder (2) relative to the lock housing (9) as recited in claims 7 and 22. In addition, Loreti fails to disclose or suggest at least one toothed piece to move to selectively allow or block retraction of the locking block into the lock cylinder, and a toothed slide having an engaged and disengaged position with at least one toothed piece as recited in claim 7.

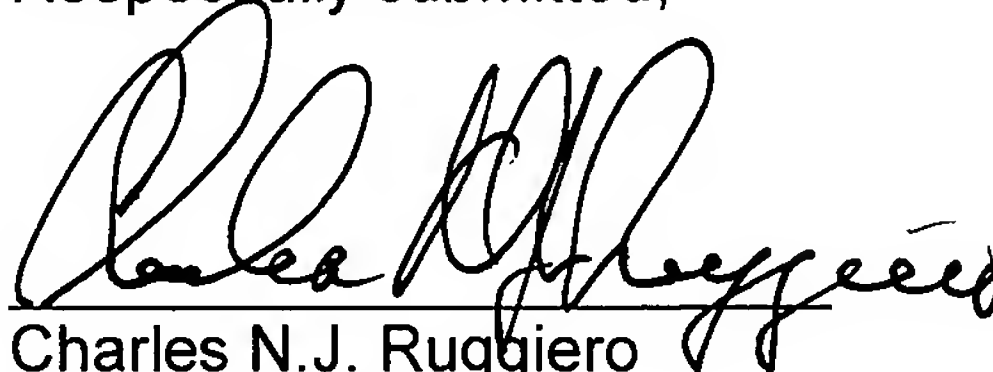
Therefore, for at least the reasons above, Boag or Loreti does not disclose or suggest claims 7 and 22. Accordingly claims 7 and 22 are patentable over Boag or Loreti.

For at least the same reasons as provided for independent claims 7 and 22, dependent claims 8 through 21 and 23 through 27, by virtue of this dependence are patentable over Boag or Loreti. For example, claims 10 and 11 disclose a block groove for allowing and preventing retraction of the locking block and claim 12 discloses the use of pins for the locking block to move the sliding block.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims present in this application patentably distinguish over the cited prior art references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections of the claims. Also, Applicant respectfully requests that this application be passed to allowance.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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